

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-33 were rejected. By the present Response, claims 1, 2, 4, 14, 24, 27 and 28 are amended, and claims 6, 19 (second numbered 19), 20 (second numbered 20), 25 and 30 are canceled. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-5, 7-24, 26-29 and 31 will remain pending in the present patent application. Their reconsideration and allowance are requested.

As indicated above, the Examiner formulated the rejection in terms of claims 1-33. In the original application as filed, the claims were numbered 1-31, but with numbers 19 and 20 being duplicated. The duplicate-numbered claims 19 and 20 have been canceled by this Response, and the remainder of the claims are referred to by their original numbering. Should the Examiner wish to alter the numbering, she is kindly requested to contact the undersigned to coordinate that change.

Claims 19 and 20 (second occurrence of each) were rejected to due to the repetition of these numbers. As indicated above, the second occurrence of each of these claims has been canceled by this Response. The Examiner also objected to claim 27 due to an apparent repetition of the term "means for storing the electronic file". Applicants have reviewed the claims as filed, and do not find this repetition. The version of claim 27 reproduced above, and amended by this paper, does not include such a repetition. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the repetition cited in the Office Action, however, she is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at her earliest convenience.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 14, 18, 19, 24, 25, 27, 28 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,047,259 to Campbell et al. (hereinafter "Campbell"). Moreover, all of the remaining claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in view of Campbell in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,272,470 to Teshima, and in view of a combination of Campbell and U.S. Patent No. 5,687,717 to

Halpern. All of these references have been considered closely, and the claims have been amended to distinguish the recited invention from this prior art.

The present application includes six independent claims, notably claims 1, 4, 14, 24, 27 and 28. The independent claims have been amended in a similar manner, to recite that the digital file comprises patient information, the patient information including text, an image, and a waveform. It is believed that the recited patient summary, methods, systems and computer inventions provide unique access to multiple file types, allowing for much more rich and complete digital patient records to be kept, maintained and accessed than were available through prior art systems. In particular, systems such as those disclosed by Campbell and the other cited prior art provide textual records, and in some cases may provide images, such as diagnostic images acquired digitally or digitized. However, no such systems appear to provide combinations of text, images and waveforms as currently recited in the independent claims of the present application, as amended. Certain of these combinations were originally recited in dependent claims in an alternative fashion, and where this was the case, such claims or language have been canceled or deleted by this Response.

Because none of the cited prior art teaches digital files having patient information of the type recited in all the pending independent claims, these claims, and the claims depending therefrom are believed to be clearly patentable over the prior art. Their reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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